

The correspondent of "Notes and Queries," 2d ser., vol. 8, p. 478, says: "The ancient orthography of the name Lomax or Lomas appears in a MS. Rent-Roll of Sir John Pilkington of Bury, Knight, dated 13 Henry VI. (1435) wherein occur Radus del Lumhalghes, Oliverus del Lumhalghes, Thomas del Lumhalghe de Whetyll, and Galfridus del Lumhalghes, all holding lands within the manor of Bury, in the county of Lancaster."

At first view we might think that the name Lomax could not be derived from Lumhalghes, but a little reflection will render it less improbable. It is presumed that the name Lumhalghes was pronounced in two syllables. There are several English words ending in *es* in which the *s* is not sounded; such as *besides*, *domes*, *fires*, *notes*, etc., and in the early English the number of such cases was much greater than at present. Thus

clerks	was	written	clerkes.	mountains	was	written	mounteynes.
fowls	"		fowlea.	sins	"		synnes.
herbs	"		herbes.	songs	"		songes.
hills	"		hilles.	towards	"		towardses.
months	"		monthes.	wills	"		willes, etc.

The letter *h* simply denotes a strong breathing which is common in all parts of England, but more particularly in the northern counties. Canceling the letters *h* and *s*, the word is reduced to Lumalge, and this would be pronounced very much like the word Lomax.

The same correspondent of "Notes and Queries," p. 478, states: "In a curious article contributed to the Chetham Society (Miscell., vol. 1855) being Examynatyons towcheynge Cokeye More, tpe. H. vii (1485-1509), one of the witnesses examined was Lawrens Lomatz of y<sup>e</sup> p<sup>ar</sup>ish of Bolton, of the age of lxx years."

From the table on page 16 it appears that the name Lomas in England can be traced back a little more than four centuries, but I have been unable to trace it further. Surnames were first introduced into England about the time of the Conquest (A. D. 1066), but the custom came slowly into use during the eleventh and three following centuries. Hereditary surnames were not permanently settled among the lower and middle classes in England before the era of the Reformation (A. D. 1517). But Laurent Lomax, born about 1427, was a person of some distinction, and either he or his son (as will be shown hereafter) was authorized to have a coat of arms. The absence of any earlier mention in English annals of the name Lomax or Lomas